YOUTH

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Civic Night Highlights
Empowerment for Youth

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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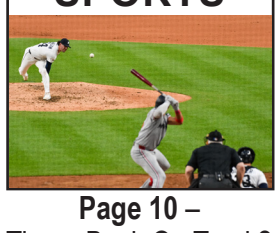
SPORTS



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Tigers Back On Track?

Latinos creativos brillan como Kresge Fellows 2025, honorando herencia y poder artístico

Por Amber Ogden

En un momento crucial para la comunidad creativa latina e hispanohablante de Detroit, cuatro artistas, Louis Aguilar, Kimberly Luther, Ivan Montoya y Frisly Soberanis, han sido galardonados con los prestigiosos 2025 Kresge Artist Fellowships, consolidando su lugar en el corazón del tejido cultural de la ciudad, así como de sus países de origen.

Su reconocimiento en las artes literarias y visuales no solo es un hito personal, sino un testimonio de la riqueza de las voces latinas que moldean la identidad de Detroit. Como señaló Rip Rapson, presidente y director ejecutivo de Kresge, los premios afirman que «la comunidad creativa de Detroit encarna la resiliencia, la visión y la transformación».

"Los galardonados de este año ejemplifican la profundidad y la amplitud del arte arraigado en esta

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Latino Creatives Shine as 2025 Kresge Fellows, Honoring Heritage and Artistic Power

By Amber Ogden

2025 Kresge Fellows from left-right: Elise Marie Martin, Taurus Burns, Louis Aguilar, Maya Davis, Kimberly LaVonne, Slumdog Visionaire, Marwa Helal, Donald Calloway, Brittany Rogers, Beenish Ahmed, Ivan Montoya, April Anue Shipp, Allana Clarke, Malak Cherri, Anetria Cole. Photo credit: JennyRisher

In a powerful moment for Detroit's Latino and Spanish-speaking creative community, four artists, Louis Aguilar, Kimberly Luther, Ivan Montoya, and Frisly Soberanis, have been honored through the prestigious 2025 Kresge Artist Fellowships, cementing their place at the heart of the city's cultural fabric, but also their home countries.

Their recognition in literary and visual arts is not only a personal milestone but a testament to the richness of Latina/o/x voices shaping Detroit's identity. As Kresge President and CEO Rip Rapson noted, the awards affirm that "Detroit's creative community embodies resilience, vision, and transformation."

"This year's recipients exemplify the depth and breadth of artistry rooted in this city, from poetry that reclaims identity and uplifts voice to visual work that reframes

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Anunciamos el Lanzamiento de Lazos Global, Una Plataforma de Aprendizaje Digital Bilingüe

Fotos de Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

El jueves 31 de julio, en Lazos Detroit - Business Alianzas Expo, más de 70 empresarios, contratistas, organizaciones sin fines de lucro y socios comerciales se reunieron en El Salpicón Detroit para una emocionante velada de networking, recursos, oportunidades y anuncios de nuevos programas diseñados específicamente para propietarios de negocios inmigrantes y de comunidades minoritarias.

Puente Cultural Integration, una destacada firma bilingüe de consultoría para pequeños negocios y marketing internacional, lanzó una nueva plataforma digital llamada Lazos Global. "¡Hemos estado trabajando en este proyecto por más de tres años!", anunció Bridget Espinosa, directora general de Puente. "Desde la pandemia, hemos ofrecido cientos de horas de talleres virtuales y estamos muy orgullosos de haber creado una

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Introducing Lazos Global, A Bilingual Digital Learning Platform

Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

Bi-lingual Back Office participants, pictured from left: Mario G. Lawler-CML Enterprise, Leanna Denise Noble-Ren Property Improvements, Saul Maciel-Maciel Custom Painting, Federico "Kiko" Gonzalez-Concrete Strong, Mario Flores-M&D Drywall, Paul Kinnus-Gilbert Family Foundation, David Orozco-Beast Construction, Bridget Espinosa-Puente Cultural Integration, Enzo Olvera-Puente Cultural Integration, Saylin Iglesias- Puente Cultural Integration, Antonio Colley Jr-Colley Construction Services, Yazmin Payan-Puente Cultural Integration.

On Thursday, July 31, at the Lazos Detroit - Business Alianzas Expo, over 70 entrepreneurs, contractors, nonprofit organizations and business partners, gathered at El Salpicón Detroit for an exciting evening of networking, resources, opportunities and announcements of new programs specifically created for immigrant and minority business owners.

Puente Cultural Integration, a leading bilingual small business consulting and international marketing firm, launched a brand new digital platform called Lazos Global. "We have been working on this project for over three years," announced Bridget Espinosa, CEO of Puente. "Since the pandemic, we have provided hundreds of hours of virtual workshops and we are so proud to have created a platform where anyone can access all of these courses on lazosglobal.com!"

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lazosglobal.com

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Eric R. Sabree

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Latinos creativos brillan como Kresge Fellows 2025

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ciudad, desde la poesía que reivindica la identidad y eleva la voz hasta el trabajo visual que replantea el legado, el lugar y la memoria", dijo Rapson.

"Juntas, sus contribuciones nos llevan más allá de lo que se ve y se oye, hacia lo que se debe sentir, recordándonos que las artes no son simplemente reflejos de la vitalidad de Detroit, sino arquitectos activos de su futuro".

El veterano periodista y autor Louis Aguilar, un 2025 Literary Arts Fellow, utiliza la narrativa para explorar la identidad, la inmigración y la familia en las comunidades latinas de Detroit. La obra de no ficción creativa del escritor mexicoamericano refleja las historias ocultas de generaciones que moldearon la ciudad, pero que a menudo pasaron desapercibidas.

"Una de las muchas cosas geniales [the Kresge Fellowship] fue que pude conocer a otros artistas", dijo Aguilar.

"Y ni siquiera me considero un periodista artístico, pero es fantástico que me consideren artista durante un año". Su próxima obra examinará la estancia de Frida Kahlo y Diego Rivera en Detroit, centrándose en su residencia de 11 meses en la ciudad. Aguilar también está indagando en un misterio personal: su abuelo podría estar representado en los famosos murales de Rivera sobre la Industria de Detroit en el DIA.

"Me dije a mí mismo: si gano el financiamiento esta vez, me ayudará a cumplir mi objetivo final de escribir un libro de no ficción creativa sobre el tema", dijo.

La artista panameña-es-

Kimberly LaVonne credit: Jenny Risher

tadounidense Kimberly Luther, galardonada en la categoría de cerámica, es la única ganadora panameña de artes visuales en la cohorte de este año. Su obra combina técnicas tradicionales de arcilla con temas de protesta, memoria y lugar, a menudo inspirados en los vibrantes sonidos y colores de su infancia en Panamá.

Luther describió su estilo como una "sonoridad silenciosa", superponiendo superficies texturizadas para reflejar la saturación sensorial de los autobuses Diablo Rojo cubiertos de grafitis y la energía de la ciudad.

"Tengo recuerdos muy vívidos de mi abuela, mi tía Dida, mi tía Rosemary y todos mis primos, porque vivimos en Panamá cuando yo era más joven, en la Zona del Canal", dijo Luther.

"Me parezco mucho a las mujeres de mi familia, porque tienen personalidades y experiencias muy fuertes, mujeres que han pasado por tantas cosas".

Su proyecto Kresge consistirá en la finalización de un retrato en cerámica profundamente personal de su madre, sosteniendo la bandera panameña durante una protesta contra la minería de cobre, que simboliza la resistencia y el orgullo transmitidos de generación en generación.

El pintor mexicoamericano Iván Montoya, nombrado un 2025 Visual Arts Fellow, canaliza la memoria cultural y la resistencia a través de su arte. Su obra combina textiles, color e imágenes de archivo para reflexionar sobre la identidad chicana y las tensiones entre la preservación cultural y la asimilación.

"Me interesa lo que sucede cuando el patrimonio cultural se cruza con las presiones externas de asimilación", dijo Montoya en su sitio web.

Mi obra explora la chispa de identidad que surge de esta fricción... Me atrae el etéreo espacio intermedio entre dos culturas, transitado por muchos, pero representado por pocos.

Los lienzos de Montoya reflejan las dimensiones personales y políticas de la identidad, la migración y la comunidad. Su reconocimiento Kresge no solo honra la visión individual, sino que también resalta el poder de la narrativa como resistencia.

El artista de nuevos medios, nacido en Guatemala, Frisly Soberanis, recibió el 2025 Kresge Gilda Award in Visual Arts. Conocido por sus entornos digitales inmersivos que combinan video, realidad virtual e instalación, Soberanis crea experiencias que hablan de la travesía migratoria, la memoria colectiva y la identidad generacional.

Sus proyectos, que se han presentado en el Museo de

Artist Frisly Soberanis, credit: Frisly Soberanis

Queens, SXSW y el Centro de Cultura Digital de la Ciudad de México, ahora encuentran un hogar en Detroit, donde continúa expandiendo los límites del arte participativo arraigado en la verdad cultural.

Utilizando la narración como medio para el diálogo comunitario, Soberanis conecta el pasado con el presente, la memoria con la expresión digital.

Estos honores van más allá del reconocimiento artístico. Reafirman la importancia de los creadores latinos de Detroit en una ciudad donde la cultura, la comunidad y la equidad están estrechamente vinculadas. La escritura de Aguilar conecta el pasado con la vida mexicoamericana presente en Detroit; Montoya y Luther enaltecen las tradiciones.

Estética tradicional en formas visuales modernas; Soberanis ofrece encuentros inmersivos que desafían la percepción y profundizan la empatía.

"La comunidad creativa de Detroit encarna la resiliencia, la visión y la transformación", afirmó Rapson.

Amber Ogden es una escritora independiente nacida y criada en Detroit. Ha publicado en Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D y Rachel Ray Every Day. Disfruta del arte y de recorrer la ciudad en su tiempo libre.

Este artículo fue posible gracias a una generosa subvención a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News por parte de Press Forward, el movimiento nacional que fortalece a las comunidades revitalizando las noticias locales. Obtenga más información en www.pressforward.news.

Latino Creatives Shine as 2025 Kresge Fellows

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legacy, place, and memory," Rapson said.

"Together, their contributions move us beyond what is seen and heard, into what must be felt, reminding us that the arts are not simply reflections of Detroit's vitality, but active architects of its future."

Veteran journalist and author Louis Aguilar, a 2025 Literary Arts Fellow, uses storytelling to explore identity, immigration, and family in Detroit's Latino communities. The Mexican-American writer's work in creative nonfiction reflects the unseen stories of generations who shaped the city but often went unrecognized.

"One of the many great things about it [the Kresge Fellowship] was I got to meet other artists," Aguilar said.

"And I don't even consider myself an artist journalist, but it's great to be called an artist for a year."

His upcoming work will examine Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera's time in Detroit, focusing on their 11-month residency in the city. Aguilar is also digging into a personal mystery; his grandfather may be depicted in Rivera's famous Detroit Industry murals at the DIA.

"I told myself, if I win it [the Fellowship] this time, it will help me fulfill my final goal to write a creative nonfiction book about the subject," he said.

Like A Ladder To The Sun, Artist: Kimberly LaVonne

Louis Aguilar, credit: Jenny Risher

Panamanian-American artist Kimberly Luther, honored in the ceramics category, is the only Panamanian visual arts fellow in this year's cohort. Her work blends traditional clay techniques with themes of protest, memory, and place, often drawing from the vibrant sounds and colors of her childhood in Panama.

Luther described her style as a "quiet loudness," layering textured surfaces to mirror the sensory rush of graffiti-covered Diablo Rojo buses and city energy.

"I have very strong, vibrant memories of my grandmother, my aunt Dida, my aunt Rosemary, and all of my cousins because we actually lived in Panama when I was younger in the Canal Zone," Luther said.

"I'm mostly like the women in my family too, because they are such strong personalities and such strong women who've gone through so much."

Her Kresge project will finish a deeply personal ceramic portrait of her mother holding the Panamanian flag during an anti-copper mining protest, symbolizing the resistance and pride passed through generations.

Mexican-American painter Ivan Montoya, named a 2025 Visual Arts Fellow, channels cultural memory and resistance through his art. His work weaves together textiles, color, and archival images to reflect on Chicano identity and the tensions between cultural preservation and assimilation.

"I am interested in what happens when cultural heritage intersects with external pressures of assimilation," Montoya said on his website of work.

"My work explores the resulting spark of identity that comes from this friction... I am drawn to the ethereal in-between space between two cultures that is navigated by many but represented by few."

Montoya's canvases reflect the personal and political dimensions of identity, migration, and community. His Kresge recognition not only honors individ-

Ivan Montoya, credit: Jenny Risher

ual vision, but also highlights the power of storytelling as resistance.

Guatemalan-born new media artist Frisly Soberanis received a 2025 Kresge Gilda Award in Visual Arts. Known for his immersive digital environments that blend video, virtual reality, and installation, Soberanis creates experiences that speak to the migrant journey, collective memory, and generational identity.

His projects, which have been featured at the Queens Museum, SXSW, and Mexico City's Centro de Cultura Digital, now find a home in Detroit, where he continues to push the boundaries of participatory art rooted in cultural truth.

Using storytelling as a medium for community dialogue, Soberanis bridges the gap between past and present, memory and digital expression.

These honors extend beyond artistic recognition. They affirm the importance of Detroit's Latino creators in a city where culture, community, and equity are tightly linked. Aguilar's writing draws the bridge between past and present Mexican-American life in Detroit; Montoya and Luther elevate ancestral aesthetics in modern visual forms; Soberanis offers immersive encounters that challenge perception and deepen empathy.

"Detroit's creative community embodies resilience, vision, and transformation," Rapson said.

Amber Ogden is a freelance writer born and raised in Detroit. She has published work in Forbes, Chevy in the D, Model D, and Rachel Ray Every Day. She enjoys art and eating through the city in her free time.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

DeNoche Night Ritual credit: Artist Ivan Montoya

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Project Play Southeast Michigan Host Youth Sports Showcase

Free event will promote physical activity and introduce kids to sports

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Project Play Southeast Michigan are hosting the Detroit Youth Sports Showcase on Saturday, August 16 to promote the benefits of physical activity and to introduce children from throughout the community to a wide variety of sports.

The free event runs from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cullen Plaza, which is located at 1340 Atwater Street along the Detroit Riverfront. The event takes place rain or shine.

The Detroit Youth Sports Showcase provides youth with the opportunity to visit various stations set up around Cullen Plaza and the neighboring Milliken State Park to experience a variety of sports and outdoor physical activities, some of which they may have never tried or had access to before. The sports and physical activities are offered by organizations throughout southeast Michigan.

This is the third year for the event.

The stations will consist of field hockey with Great Lakes Regional Field Hockey, skateboarding with A Positive Seed, golf with First Tee Greater Detroit, robotics with Gearhead Robotics, chess with Wise Guys Chess Club, volleyball with Detroit Volleyball Club, lacrosse with Detroit United Lacrosse, tennis with Motor City Tennis and more.

There will also be literacy resources and information on after-school program offerings in the City of Detroit. In total, there are more than 15 stations featured at the event.

The Motor City Cruise will host a special activation at the event featuring fun activities and giveaways for all ages, including an appearance from mascot, Nitro. The Cruise is also hosting a basketball clinic from Noon to 1 p.m. that will be led by Cruise associate head coach Marcus Stout, Detroit Pistons player development coaches Vasu Gupta and Assane Sene, Motor City Cruise staff and Pistons Academy staff.

"Detroit Youth Sports Showcase will be the perfect opportunity for families looking to get active on the riverfront," said Addison Mauck, director of visitor experience for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. "With such a variety of different sports from local organizations to experience, there will be something for everyone to try."

"We're proud to partner on the Detroit Youth Sports Showcase because we believe every child deserves the chance to play, grow, and thrive through sports," said Rickey Jackson Jr., program manager, Project Play Southeast Michigan. "Events like this are our 'why.' They bring our community together and highlight the power of play to build confidence, connection, and lifelong skills."

All ages and experience levels are welcome to attend the event. Participants are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to fill up on-site and wear athletic

apparel and closed-toed shoes.

Participants can receive free Detroit Tigers tickets while supplies last, along with other giveaways and access to back-to-school resources.

Free parking is available in the River East Garage at 1000 Franklin Street, Detroit MI 48207. Food and refreshments will be available for purchase.

There are opportunities for summer camps or youth organizations to bring large groups to the event. Email the Conservancy at info@detroitriverfront.org to register.

For more information about the Detroit Youth Sports Showcase or to register, visit: https://detroitriverfront.org/youthsportsshowcase

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About the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 with the mission to develop public access to Detroit's riverfront and serve as an anchor for economic development. As the permanent stewards of the Riverwalk and associated greenways, the Conservancy is responsible for raising the funds needed for construction, operation, maintenance, security and programming of the public spaces located along the riverfront. The ultimate vision is for the Conservancy to develop five-and-a-half miles of riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge on the west to Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle. Visit www.detroitriverfront.org for more information.

Project Play of Southeast Michigan

Project Play Southeast Michigan is a regional initiative powered by the Aspen Institute and supported by the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. We work to expand access to quality, community-based youth sports and physical activity. Our mission is to ensure all children, regardless of zip code or ability, have the opportunity to be active through sports, recreation, and play.

AAA: Travel Insurance is a Must During Hurricane Season

Stay protected during a storm

Hurricane season can turn even the most well-planned vacations upside down. Unpredictable weather can lead to unexpected travel disruptions, making travel insurance a crucial safeguard.

"Travel insurance can offer peace of mind against disruptions caused by hurricanes, including cancellation, delay, or unexpected postponements of your journey," said Adrienne Woodland, spokeswoman, AAA-The Auto Club Group. "However, it's essential to secure that policy before the National Hurricane Center assigns a name to the storm. Once they do, the threat is acknowledged, and unfortunately, you will no longer be eligible for protection against that storm."

Typically, travel insurance will reimburse for covered losses associated with flight delays or cancellations due to a hurricane. It will potentially refund non-refundable deposits on accommodations or other trip expenses if the hurricane forces a cancellation. Each travel insurance plan comes with its own set of rules, based on the product you are purchasing and the state you live in. The insurance policy outlines all the details you need to know and serves as a guide for what is and is not covered under your policy.

AAA provides the following travel insurance advice:

Purchase travel insurance before the storm is named

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- Many policies cover trip cancellation and interruption due to weather-related events, including hurricanes. This can reimburse you for prepaid, non-refundable expenses, such as flights, hotels, and tours, if you must cancel or interrupt your trip due to a hurricane.

Coverage for travel delays

- If your flight or other transportation is delayed due to a hurricane, travel insurance may reimburse you for additional expenses, such as food and lodging, incurred while you wait to continue your trip. For example, a popular plan offered through AAA provides benefits for flight delays of as little as three hours.

Documentation

- Keep all receipts and confirmations for your trip expenses, as you'll need them to file a claim.

AAA: What to keep in mind

- Read the fine print. Take a moment to review your policy details so you understand what's covered when hurricanes or other natural disasters strike.
- Buy early. Don't forget to purchase travel insurance immediately after you book your trip. This is especially true if you're heading to areas where hurricanes are known to occur.

For more travel insights and expert advice, visit AAA.com/Travel.

About AAA - The Auto Club Group

The Auto Club Group (ACG) is the second largest AAA club in North America with more than 13 million members across 14 U.S. states and two U.S. territories. ACG and its affiliates provide members with roadside assistance, insurance products, banking and financial services, travel offerings and more. ACG belongs to the national AAA federation with more than 65 million members in the United States and Canada. AAA's mission is to protect and advance freedom of mobility and improve traffic safety. For more information, get the AAA Mobile app, visit AAA.com, and follow us on social media.

Diles que lo Viste en EL CENTRAL

Tell them you saw it in EL CENTRAL

Pax Christi USA Holds National Conference in Detroit

By Gail M. Presbey

Pax Christi USA, a Catholic based, now interreligious group that promotes peace and justice held their annual meeting at the Renaissance Center in downtown Detroit, July 24-27. The group was founded in 1972 but is related to Pax Christi International which began in Europe in 1945 after the Second World War. Their theme this year was "Reclaiming the Power of Nonviolence in a Broken World." The organization's perennial themes – abolishing nuclear weapons, finding peaceful solutions to wars, caring for the environment and for excluded people (immigrants, the disabled, the racially marginalized) and their commitment to anti-racism could be seen in the programming of the conference.

Keynote speakers included Jonathan Kuttab (Executive Director of Friends of Sabeel in North America) who addressed the crisis in Gaza, Maria Stephan who inventoried successful nonviolent campaigns around the world and throughout recent history, and Martha Inez Romero of Colombia, Secretary General of Pax Christi International, who talked (via video) about the fragility of multilateralism in our current world and the challenges of peacemaking.

Spirited music ministers led the group. ValLimar and Frank Jansen, accompanied by local Detroit musicians, shared moving songs. ValLimar was very energetic, with a beautiful, strong voice and striking and sparkly African-themed garb. Frank played the keyboards for songs – many of which he and ValLimar composed together. The couple shared their various CDs with those who gathered.

The Saturday night program featured Santiago Fernandez, who is music and worship director at Church of the Holy Family in Novi. He shared some of his own compositions that involved thoughtful reflections on faith. The Keir Ward Gospel Choir shared their musical talents, as well. They had everyone clapping and some dancing for their rendition of "God is Good." Some of their choir members were part of the earlier St. Leo's Sunday choir, back when Bishop Thomas Gumbleton (a founder of Pax Christi USA) pastored there (in Detroit).

There were quite a few concurrent workshops during the weekend that each drew a crowd. Strangers no Longer provided an opportunity for conference attendees to hear from members of their Immigration Working Group, so that attendees could better grasp the dire circumstances and challenges immigrants are facing at this moment in U.S. history. Another workshop focused on the rights of indigenous peoples, the harm done to them over the centuries and how to best express solidarity with indigenous communities today.

Another workshop focused on the war in Sudan with its complex political and military causes, the damage done and the humanitarian situation as 145,000 people have died from direct violence and famine and millions of people are displaced. Dr. Nada Fadul described training medics (via cell phone video) in first aid and trauma response to the many wounded in the war that are overwhelming the few hospitals that remain.

One workshop looked at how Artificial Intelligence is being used as part of a surveillance State. Tawana Petty discussed AI facial recognition technology being used in Detroit that has led to several cases of misidentification resulting in innocent people being accused of crimes they did not commit. Andrea Reyes of Texas discussed how Texas school systems were using AI data to predict which students may drop out or commit crime, reinforcing a school to prison pipeline. Jalal abu Hatr, a Palestinian who joined online from Israel discussed the use of "Rafael Systems" drones which can fire on civilians. He notes that living inside Israel as he does, his daily movements are surveilled by the Israeli government.

Other workshops included topics of nonviolence, nuclear disarmament, faith-based advocacy, and the concerning connection between guns and youth suicide. Participants met together to share steps that could be taken as a community to address these many problems facing our world.

Awards were given to several key activists. Joryán Hernandez, a Cuban-American graduate student at University of Notre Dame won the inaugural Sr. Dianna Ortiz Peacemaker Award. Sr. Dianna was an Ursuline sister who had been tortured while serving the poor in Guatemala. She had subsequently devoted her life to helping torture victims and trying to eradicate practices of torture. Hernandez received the award for his leadership on his campus regarding solidarity with those suffering in Gaza. He led a campaign for the university to divest from military contracts.

Another awardee was a Michigan-based group, the Meta Peace Team, co-founded by Fr. Peter Dougherty in 1978 and currently run by Mary Hanna (both of whom were there to receive the "Teacher of Peace" award for MPT). MPT teaches and practices nonviolent skills necessary to prevent and/or de-escalate conflict and violence. They often accompany groups who want to express their views in public contexts that may make them vulnerable to attack. The stage was full when the MPT leaders asked all in the audience who had been trained and/or part of a peace team to come to the stage with them.

An awardee who won the Eileen Egan Peacemaker award was Ralph McCloud, who was for many years the executive director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, which is the program of the US Catholic Bishops that addresses poverty. Dissatisfied with aspects of his work for the Bishops, McCloud resigned in 2024 and is currently a fellow with NETWORK, a lobby group that promotes Catholic Social Teaching.

Sunday morning, Archbishop Edward Weisenburger presided over mass, aided by Pax Christi Bishop John Stowe. The mass had a large attendance. In addition to Weisenburger's support, Pax Christi USA also received a letter from Pope Leo XIV which commended Pax Christi for its concerns for peace and social justice.

The conference ended with attendees streaming out of the Renaissance Center with many signs and messages in their hands. They proceeded to the Spirit of Detroit statue at the foot of Woodward and Jefferson, where they had a prayer ceremony (music led by Julie Beutel) that included a prayer for people and also for the land and water.

Joryán Hernandez, shown with Bishop John Stowe, Jessica Sun, and Charlene Howard (Executive Director of Pax Christi USA)

Pax Chrisi conference attendees held a prayer ceremony in front of the Spirit of Detroit. Photo by Judy Coode.

Pax Cristi in front of the Spirit of Detroit. Photo by Judy Coode.

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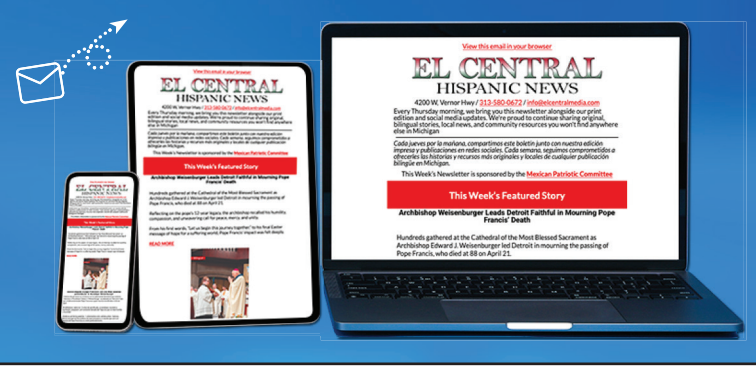
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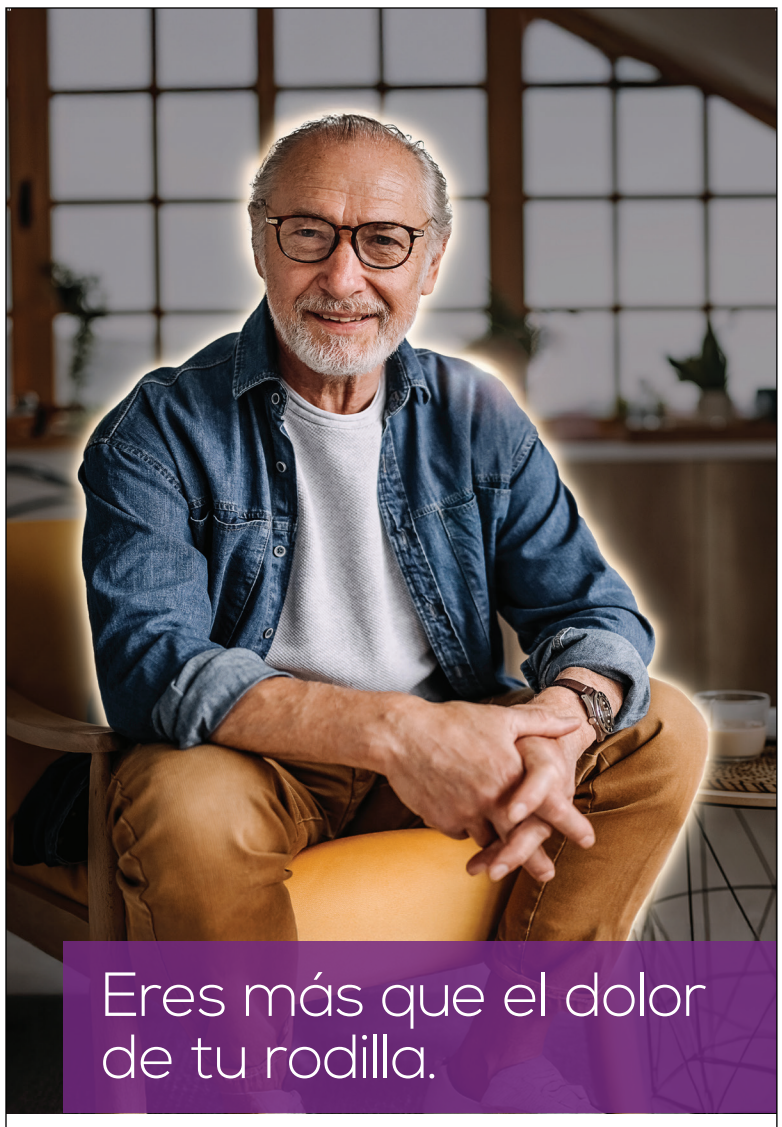
This Week's Featured Story
Archbishop Weisenburger Leads Detroit Faithful in Mourning Pope Francis' Death



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Anunciamos el Lanzamiento de Lazos Global

Con't. de pg. 1

plataforma donde cualquier persona puede acceder a todos estos cursos en lazosglobal.com".

Puente de Conexión, una organización 501(c)(3) fundada por Espinosa, recibió una subvención de beneficios comunitarios del Gordie Howe International Bridge en enero de este año, lo que permitió a su equipo desarrollar esta plataforma integral que no solo ofrecerá capacitación bilingüe, sino también una comunidad global para cualquier persona que desee ser instructor de un curso virtual. Gracias a esta generosa financiación, la plataforma será de acceso gratuito para cualquier persona en el mundo durante los primeros 90 días, y se otorgarán becas a residentes de Detroit por hasta cuatro años para los talleres de Espinosa.

Bridget Espinosa presenting to the guests attending the Lazos Detroit event at El Salpicon

Alliance Catholic Credit Union Team (Juana Saavedra, Johana Lozano, Vanessa Franco, Rodolfo Pantoja, Jose M Rodriguez) with Bridget Espinosa

Los cursos actuales incluyen "Pinta Tu Vida", un taller para ayudarte a escribir tu misión y visión alineadas con tus valores. Cada mes se lanzarán nuevos cursos, incluido en septiembre la serie bilingüe empresarial distintiva de Puente llamada The PCI BRIDGE Model. El registro ya está abierto y es gratuito para el público en lazosglobal.com.

Además del anuncio de Lazos Global, Puente también celebró a nueve contratistas que están participando en su programa Bilingual Back Office (BBO). El BBO se lanzó como piloto durante 2023-2024 y cuenta con el apoyo financiero de Gilbert Family Foundation para proporcionar servicios de contabilidad y consultoría empresarial para contratistas inmigrantes y de minorías, con el objetivo de apoyar su crecimiento. El objetivo principal es la movilidad económica, incluyendo aumentos salariales para empleados y subcontratistas 1099, así como un mayor acceso a capital para al menos la mitad de los propietarios de negocios. Los resultados son impresionantes y hablan por sí solos.

Desde el otoño de 2023, el programa BBO ha impactado a 12 emprendedores —algunos de ellos con más de un negocio—, de los cuales 9 continúan actualmente en el programa. Puente anticipa contar con resultados completos después de la fecha límite de impuestos de abril de 2026, pero hasta el momento ya se cuenta con datos completos del periodo 2023-2024 de siete negocios que comenzaron en el programa piloto. De estos, seis mostraron crecimiento:

- Aumento de ingresos: los ingresos promedio aumentaron en $143,443
- Aumento de ganancias para 6 clientes: la rentabilidad total aumentó en $313,885.

A través de asesorías individuales y talleres grupales, los participantes han adquirido conocimientos esenciales sobre:

- Optimización contable: Uso de QuickBooks para la gestión financiera y preparación de impuestos, P & L, balances, facturación, estimaciones, cuentas por cobrar, nómina, entre otras.
- Estructuras empresariales: Diferencias entre LLC, S-Corp y C-Corp, beneficios y desafíos de la INCORPORACIÓN y sus implicaciones legales y fiscales.
- Responsabilidades financieras: Declaración y obligaciones fiscales adecuadas al operar como LLC, S-Corp o INC en el estado de Michigan.
- Gestión de pagos y nómina: Cómo distinguir entre empleados, colaboradores y subcontratistas, así como manejar pagos en efectivo y pagos por W-2/1099.
- Clases de inglés empresarial disponibles: Clases prácticas en línea con temas empresariales, así como enseñanza básica del uso de Google Suite - correo electrónico, uso de Google Drive, etc., para nuestros emprendedores inmigrantes de habla hispana.

Además del programa Lazos Global, y gracias a los fondos del Puente Internacional Gordie Howe, el equipo de Puente / Business Alianzas puede ofrecer una Hora de Oficina Abierta gratuita a cualquier propietario de negocio o emprendedor en formación que necesite asesoría empresarial o asistencia técnica.

Puente también tiene tres eventos presenciales emblemáticos más en 2025:

- **Women Alianzas** (11 de septiembre en ArteSano)
- **Chelas Con Contratistas BBQ** (21 de septiembre en Alvarez Party Store)
- **Lazos Detroit: Cena de Agradecimiento** – Segunda edición de este evento anual (25 de noviembre en Candela)

Contractor Federico Gonzalez of Concrete Strong with Yelaine Balón

Para más información sobre sus eventos, convertirse en patrocinador o solicitar una cita inicial gratuita, comuníquese con la Gerente General de Puente, Yazmin Payan, al correo team@puenteci.com o llame a la oficina al 313-590-0900.

Introducing Lazos Global

Continued from page 1

Puente de Conexión, a nonprofit organization founded by Espinosa, received a Community Benefits Grant from the Gordie Howe International Bridge in January of this year, which allowed their team to develop this complex platform that will not only provide bilingual training, but also a global community for anyone who would like to be an instructor of a virtual course. With the generous grant funding, this platform is free to access for anyone in the world for the first 90 days, and Puente will be able to provide scholarships for Detroiters for up to four years for Espinosa's workshops.

Current courses include "Paint Your Life", a workshop to help inspire you to write your mission and vision statements aligned with your values. New courses will be launched each month including Puente's signature bilingual entrepreneurial series called The PCI BRIDGE Model in September. Registration is now open and free to the public on lazosglobal.com.

In addition to the Lazos Global announcement, Puente also celebrated nine contractors who are participating in their Bilingual Back Office (BBO) program. The BBO was piloted in 2023-2024 and has funding from the Gilbert Family Foundation to provide bookkeeping and small business consulting services to immigrant and minority contractors to help them grow. The primary goal is economic mobility, including increased wages for their employees and 1099 subcontractors, and increased access to capital for at least half of the business owners. The impressive results speak for themselves.

Since the fall of 2023, the BBO program has impacted 12 entrepreneurs - some with more than one business, 9 of whom remain in the program. Puente anticipates having full results after the April 2026 tax deadline, but at this point, Puente has full data for 2023-2024 from seven businesses that started in the pilot program. Six of them showed growth:

- Increased income - average revenue increased by $143,443
- Increased profit for six clients - total profitability increased by $313,885

Through individual consultations and group workshops, participants have gained essential knowledge about:

- Accounting optimization: Use of QuickBooks for financial management and tax preparation, P & L, Balance Sheets, invoicing, estimates, accounts receivable, payroll,
- Business structures: Differences between LLC, S-Corp and C-Corp, benefits and challenges of INCORPORATION and their legal and tax implications.
- Financial responsibilities: Proper tax filing and obligations when operating as an LLC, S-Corp, or INC in the state of Michigan.
- Payroll and payment management: Distinguishing between employees, collaborators, and subcontractors, as well as handling cash payments and payments via W-2/1099.
- Business English classes available: Practical online English classes focusing on entrepreneurial themes, as well as teaching about Google suite basics - email, using Google Drive, etc. for our immigrant, Spanish–speaking entrepreneurs.

In addition to the Lazos Global program, through the funding provided by the Gordie Howe International Bridge, the Puente/Business Alianzas team can provide a free introductory Open Office Hour to any business owner or aspiring entrepreneur who needs business coaching or technical assistance.

Puente has three more signature in-person events in 2025:

- **Women Alianzas** (September 11th at ArteSano)
- **Chelas Con Contratistas BBQ** (September 21st at Alvarez Party Store)
- **Second annual Lazos Detroit Gratitude Dinner** (November 25th at Candela)

For more information regarding their events, to become a sponsor or to request a free initial appointment, please contact Puente's General Manager, Yazmin Payan at team@puenteci.com or call the office at 313-590-0900.

Puente team members - Daniela Gomez/Intern, Yazmin Payan/General Manager, Bridget Espinosa/Founder & CEO, Saylin Iglesias/Bookkeeper, Enzo Olvera/Bookkeeper.

Contractor Federico Gonzalez of Concrete Strong, Aldo Perez Owner of Salpicon Food Trucks and Mariscos el Salpicon, Yazmin Payan General Manager of Puente Cultural Integration, Paul Kinnus Project Manager of Gilbert Family Foundation, Bridget Espinosa/Founder & CEO, Saylin Iglesias/Bookkeeper, Enzo Olvera/Bookkeeper.

Youth Civic Night Highlights Empowerment for Detroit's Young People

By Kaylee Razo

On a hot Friday night in Detroit, young people gathered, not for a party, but to learn about power, leadership and civic engagement. Just days before the city's primary election, youth from across Detroit met on the city's westside for Youth Civic Night at the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters & Millwrights Training Center .

The event was hosted by the City of Detroit Youth Affairs Team, a youth-led initiative under Detroit's Department of Neighborhoods, founded in 2023. The night featured music by DJ Tee Two Times, civic trivia, spoken word, voter education, and conversations with city officials and distinguished guests on how young people can create change in their neighborhoods and city government.

For Shamere Duncan, Youth Affairs Engagement Coordinator, the event was part of a larger effort to give youth a seat on the table. "Youth Civic Night is a space created by and for young people to learn about civic life in a way that's engaging, accessible, and empowering," Duncan said. "It's not a lecture, it's a celebration. "We bring together youth voices, community leaders, and local government to show how young people can shape the decisions that impact their lives."

Duncan has worked in youth engagement for over two and a half years and said the idea for the event came directly from listening to Detroit's youth. "We were inspired by conversations with young people who told us they wanted to be involved but didn't always know where to start or feel like their voices mattered," she said. "Youth Civic Night is our response to that. It's a way to bridge the gap and create a welcoming first step into civic engagement, especially for youth of color who have historically been left out of these spaces."

Shamere Duncan, Youth Affairs Engagement Coordinator at the City of Detroit. Photo by Wayne State University Mike Ilitch School of Business.

Duncan also emphasized that civic spaces must be inclusive, especially for Latino youth and youth of color." Representation matters. "When young people of color see themselves reflected in leadership and civic spaces, it sends a clear message: "You belong here, and your voice matters."

Her biggest hope? "Young people have the ability to create real change. And they don't have to wait to be older to make a difference, they can start now."

Youth poet Charisma Holly. Photo by the City of Detroit, Detroitmi.gov.

One of the night's most powerful moments came from a spoken-word performance by Charisma Holly, a 17-year-old artist and recent graduate of Detroit Edison Public School Academy. Her poem, "Detroit 2050," painted a hopeful vision of Detroit 25 years from now, complete with clean air, better schools, safe neighborhoods, and local businesses thriving. "As long as we continue to believe in the progress we see, and the visions that we will someday make into reality because in the Detroit City the "D" has always been for Dreams."

Her performance was attention-grabbing and earned loud cheers, but her reason for being there was much deeper than that: "I believe very deeply in the power of the youth voice and what happens when we empower our future leaders to speak up today."

Although Holly isn't old enough to vote, she said young people should still stay involved. "The purpose of events like these is to increase exposure and information," she said. "When the public is educated on what's going on around them, we're able to make more informed decisions."

Many attendees echoed that same feeling.

Lessley Romero Rodriguez, a Henry Ford College student and intern with the Youth Affairs Team, said she appreciated the welcoming environment. It was a great turnout. "I got to connect with others and got a lot of great resources," she said. "I'm not really involved in politics, but it was nice to hear other youth's opinions and voices." "I am going to vote, and it's to support my community and make our city a better place."

She added that events like this also come with fun perks, free food, prizes, networking, and even job and volunteer opportunities.

Although Detroit's city primary election took place on Tuesday, August 5, organizers reminded attendees that civic engagement doesn't stop at the ballot box. "It's not just about elections," said Duncan. "It's about speaking up, organizing, volunteering, and participating in your community year-round."

And while the primary election has passed, the election season is far from over. The general election is November 4, and events like Youth Civic Night build momentum to keep civic engagement high throughout the year.

The Youth Affairs Team offers several year-round opportunities for engagement, including the Shadow Program, which allows young people to follow city leaders for a day, and Grow Detroit's Young Talent, a summer jobs program that connects youth to work experiences across the city.

For Briefly, a 15-year-old student, the event was a reminder that civic engagement is for everyone. "Even if they can't vote, young people can learn a lot about our history and why it's important to be involved in the community," she said. "Our voices can make a big difference."

And for many young Detroiters, the message of the night was clear: Civic life belongs to everyone. "When young people know they have power," Duncan said, "they begin to use it, and that's how change starts."

Youth participants engage with distinguished panelists during an informative discussion at Youth Civic Night. Photos provided by Shamere Duncan.

Kaylee Razo is an Alumna of Detroit Cristo Rey High School and an incoming freshman at Harvard University, where she plans to concentrate in government and economics. She is an intern with Strangers No Longer and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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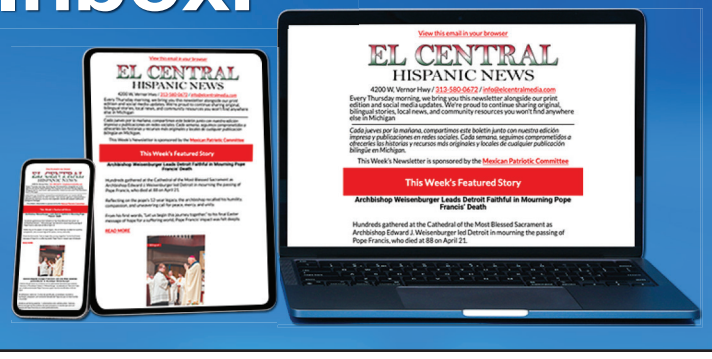
EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS



Fiesta House Unites SW Detroit Community Through Food, Music, and Community Pride

By Kaylee Razo | Photos by Luciana Vega

With a lineup of DJs spinning everything from Latin House to Reggaeton, Dembow, and Baile Funk, and vendors serving mouth-watering food and showcasing art, the Fiesta House: Carne Asada Cookout at El Club brought generations together on the dance floor and around the grill on Saturday, August 2nd.

"This is my love letter to the city of Detroit," said event organizer and DJ Emmanuel Juarez, also known as SWDEJAY. "Fiesta House is more than just a party, it's a cultural movement honoring our roots."

Juarez, who grew up in Southwest Detroit, started Fiesta House as a platform to showcase his love for music, but it quickly became something bigger. For Juarez, Fiesta House is about creating the kind of space he always wished existed growing up. "There weren't many places where our sound, our energy, and our culture were fully represented," he explained. "Not just mainstream Latin music, but the underground stuff, House, perreo, edits, remixes, techno. I wanted to make a space where we could just be ourselves."

He explained that hosting the event in Southwest Detroit was personal and rooted in his upbringing in the city. "Because Southwest is home," Juarez said. "It's where Black, Brown, Chicano, Latinx, and immigrant culture all collide. It's already full of rhythm and sabor. What started as a showcase of our culture to the rest of the city is now a movement being recognized globally, but it will always be rooted here."

He also used the event to spotlight local talent and family-owned businesses. "Part of my platform was for my mother to cook and sell her food, Mamás Kitchen, and for my sister, Dayana Juarez, a visual artist, to showcase her art."

One of the event's food vendors, Annette Hernández, was working the grill while her mother-in-law, the head of Mamás Kitchen, made her way from another event across town.

"These types of events always bring us together again, the music, the food, and seeing people we've known our whole lives," Hernández said. "It's like we're reliving high school in a way."

Her favorite part? "The music, definitely. My brother-in-law is a DJ here, and he started playing Latin House, something we didn't really grow up hearing. It draws everyone in."

Many attendees shared similar sentiments. Tania Barba, a Southwest Detroit resident, said she came because a friend invited her but quickly fell in love with the atmosphere. "There are a lot of local businesses here that want to appreciate and honor our heritage," she said.

Barba also explained why events like this matter now more than ever. "We live in times where we can be politically or socially divided. But something like this, even if it's just for one night, brings us together and reminds us what community is really about."

For Christina Noyse, Fiesta House was the perfect way to end a special day. "We had our 20-year high school reunion and saw this event on social media," she said. "So we came to check it out. The yard is beautiful, the food is amazing, and the atmosphere is so positive. I'm texting more people to come right now."

For Juarez, Fiesta House is about more than just music and fun. "Music, food, and dance are how we connect, how we express ourselves, and how we celebrate life," he said. "Whether we're from here, from back home, or somewhere in between, these are the things that remind us who we are."

He believes that in today's climate, these cultural gatherings serve a bigger purpose. "This is resistance. This is identity. This is joy. Now more than ever, we need spaces where we can be loud, proud, and together." "I want people to feel like they're welcomed here, no matter where they're from," Juarez said. "To feel safe to dance, wear, and be who they are. I want them to leave full, from the tacos, from the energy, from the love."

And judging by the dancing crowd and the sound of laughter over the music, Fiesta House succeeded.

Kaylee Razo is an Alumna of Detroit Cristo Rey High School and an incoming freshman at Harvard University, where she plans to concentrate in government and economics. She is an intern with Strangers No Longer and a mentor at the Michigan Youth Civil Rights Academy.

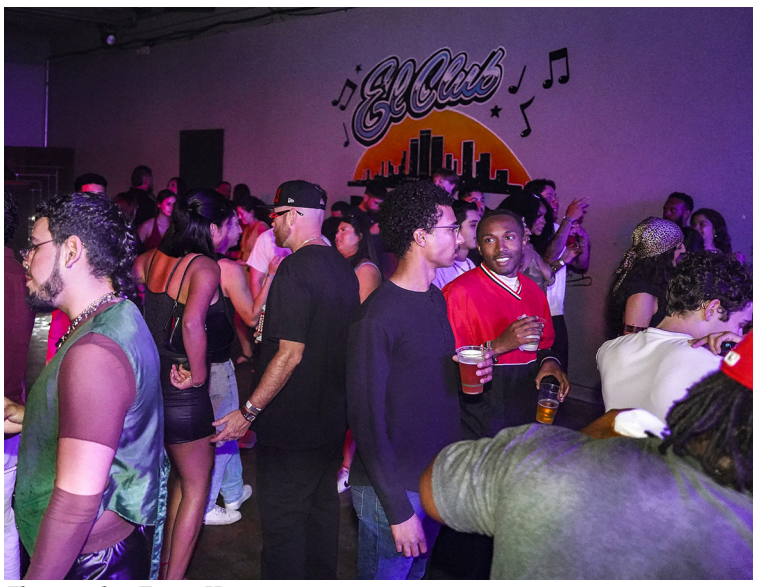
This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

DJ Dylan Gomez

Food from Mama's kitchen Detroit

Reyes of We are Culture Creators and Emmanuel Juarez (SWDEJAY) of Fiesta Vibes Detroit

Delicious eats at the carne asada cookout, courtesy of Mama's Kitchen Det.



The crowd at Fiesta House

Detroit- based artist Dayana Juarez creating a painting live during the Fiesta House Dj sets.

Kevin, Cindy, Jade, and Stephanie enjoying the Fiesta House carne asada cookout at El Club.

SWDEJAY AND DJ Yak playing their set at Fiesta House

Tigers Back On Track ?

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The Detroit Tigers defeated the Minnesota Twins, this past Monday, 6-3, in front of 24,018 fans at Comerica Park.

The Detroit Tigers are finding their winning ways after the All Star break and losing a few games in a row.

The Detroit Tigers are currently tied for first place in the America League (as of Tuesday afternoon) with the Toronto Blue Jays at 66 - 48.

The Tigers host the Los Angeles Angels Friday, August 8th through Sunday, August 10th, before going on the road, Monday, August 11th through Wednesday, August 13th, to take on the Chicago White Sox, then travel to take on the Minnesota Twins, Thursday, August 14th through Sunday, August 17th before returning to Comerica Park to host the Houston Astros on Monday, August 18th through Wednesday, August 20th.

Note of interest, Riley Green shaved off his "rally moustache" after the Tigers were able to stop their losing streak

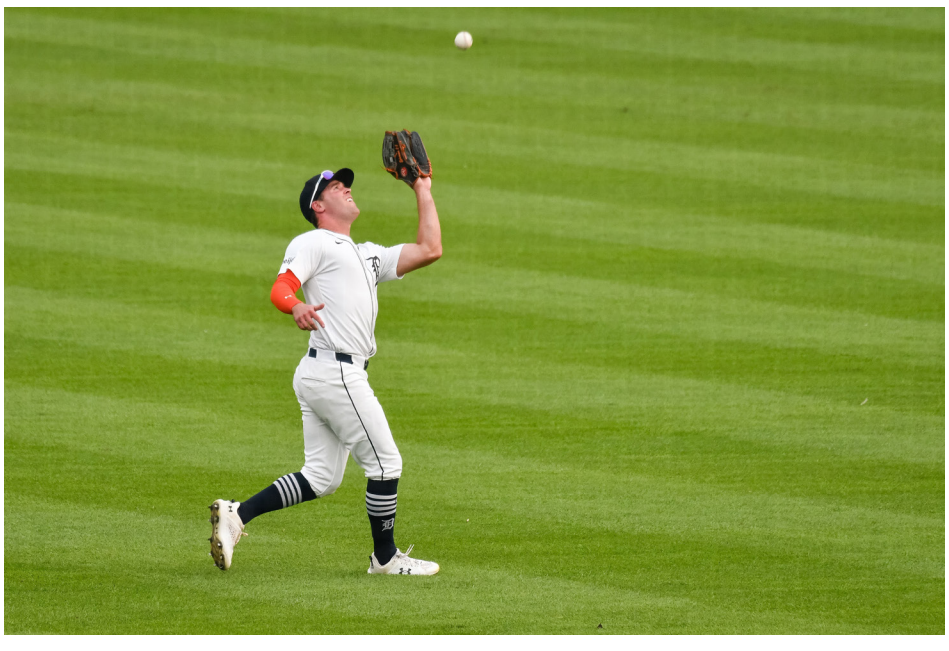
Photos below are highlights from the Detroit Tigers vs. Minnesota Twins

Casey Mize (#12) gets the win with 6.0 IP, 4 H, 3 ER, 4 K, 0 BB

Zach McKinstry (#39) gets a short grounder that advances him to first

On a double to right, Zach McKinstry (#39) stretched the play to third where he was thrown out

On a single to right field, Riley Green (#31) stretches the play to second and is thrown out



Kerry Carpenter (#30) chased down a pop fly in left field

Colt Keith (#33) stretches safe onto first during a close throw

Time To Right The Ship

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Coming off a much needed break, Detroit City FC will jump right into the USL Championship home stretch with a massive two game week. First up on Wednesday is a trip to Pawtucket to face Rhode Island FC, then Le Rouge will return home over the weekend to meet Indy XI at Keyworth. These six points could either launch them into a solid playoff spot, closing the gap to the third seed in the Eastern Conference, or make the rest of the season a tougher watch than the past three months.

DCFC has only one league win since May 1. That was a comfortable win over Miami FC back in June. They didn't win a game in either May or July. This only wins in that time were in cup competitions. They beat Westchester SC in both the US Open Cup and the USL Jagermeister League Cup before the Chicago Fire of MLS knocked them out of the Open Cup. They also lost in embarrassing fashion to League One Portland Hearts of Pine in the League Cup when they had only a sliver of a chance to advance to the quarterfinals. With the season now clear of any cup involvements, they can focus on moving up the table.

Even with the poor results of the past three months, DCFC, with twenty-one points, only trails third place Loudoun United by six points in the Eastern Conference. The rest of the teams DCFC is battling for playoff position have also been generously dropping points during the summer months. That's what makes this week's two games so important. Both Rhode Island FC and Indy XI are below DCFC in the standings. Winning these games would put distance between DCFC and their close rivals. No team is going to catch Louisville City and the Charleston Battery, who are level on forty-one points at the top of the league. Even Western Conference leading FC Tulsa only has thirty-two points.

Coach Danny Dichio will be feeling the pressure, especially after the abrupt departure of Sporting Director Trevor James. That has left a massive hole in the club's structure. However, his departure has not stopped recruitment for the first team. Last week the club announced the acquisition of left wing Kobe Hernandez-Foster from the Las Vegas Lights. It was the last transaction in a three team move that saw Hernandez-Foster move from Birmingham Legion to Las Vegas to Detroit. Las Vegas received a transfer fee from DCFC in the move.

The arrival of Hernandez-Foster raises questions about the short and long term future of Alex Villanueva. Villanueva missed the club's last game before the break and no announcement appeared regarding his absence. With Ben Morris and Stephen Carroll already long term absentees, the club cannot afford to lose any more starter level players. Dichio has too many issues to address without worrying about more injuries.

The biggest issue DCFC will have to address is its anemic offense. The club has a negative goal difference in spite of only conceding 22 goals in 17 games. They have only scored 20. The loss of Morris looms large in this area. Darrin Smith, who started the season on fire, has cooled off significantly since the end of April. The rest of the team hasn't picked up the slack and hasn't been creating enough chances for him.

Inserting Ates Diouf into the lineup has given the team an injection of pace on the left wing, but he has to combine more effectively with his teammates. He tries to go it alone too often and has a low success rate. DCFC has had virtually no production from the right. Rhys Williams and anyone who covers him when he isn't on the field have to be more of a threat. With the wings and the center forward lacking goals and chances, much of the threat has come from the midfield and defense. Devon Amoo-Mensah and Matt Sheldon have been among the goals from the back.

When it comes to creating chances, the team has lacked midfield play. Nobody on the team has more than one assist. Dichio has been throwing out every combination he has, tweaking it game to game, without finding a spark. Jeciel Cedeno, Jay Chapman, Ryan Williams, Abdoulaye Diop, and Dominic Gasso have all seen time in the engine room, but none have seized the opportunity to lift the team. They aren't able to connect well enough among themselves and then find the right pass at the right time to the forwards. DCFC's front line does not have a physical presence. The forwards have to find gaps and play through them to beat defenses. It hasn't been happening.

Given the lack of creativity and killer passes from midfield, DCFC might have to become set piece specialists. Amoo-Mensah and Michael Bryant have been threats to score due to their prowess in the air. As long as the service is good, a major caveat, they can threaten at any time. The club will have to lean on them unless something clicks during the run of play. Ideally, the team has spent a lot of training figuring out how to open up the field for the forwards. Smith has been stuck on seven goals for a while. He often cuts a frustrated figure during games. It's up to the team to come together collectively and figure out how to find their most dangerous attacker in positions where he can be their most dangerous attacker. That will be the key to a successful run-in.

BASH at the Batch Brewery, August 16th

Photos by Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

IBW (International Bigtime Wrestling) returns to the Batch Brewing Co. on August 16th. Tickets for the event are $10.

Photos below are highlights from the July wrestling event at the Batch Brewing Co.

Gilbert Family Foundation Invests $1.2 Million to Launch "Ignite Detroit Contractors" Program, Supporting Early-Stage Detroit Contractors

Gilbert Family Foundation recently announced the launch of Ignite Detroit Contractors, a new business development initiative to support early-stage construction contractors in Detroit as they stabilize and scale their businesses to prepare for larger opportunities. Funded through a $1.2 million investment from Gilbert Family Foundation, Ignite targets Detroit-based contractors that are stuck in the startup phase due to financial, operational and systemic challenges.

Ignite aims to address common barriers to growth through industry-specific technical assistance and coaching; connections to experienced peers and project opportunities; a full calendar of educational sessions, workshops, and events; and introductions to both traditional lending and microlending institutions.

Following the success of two cohorts of the Motor City Contractor Fund, which provides resources for experienced Detroit contractors, the launch of Ignite is another way Gilbert Family Foundation will support inclusive entrepreneurship and help increase job opportunities across the city.

"The Ignite program is tailored to help early-stage contractors grow their vital businesses with confidence," said Laura Grannemann, Executive Director, Gilbert Family Foundation. "As Detroit's neighborhoods and commercial corridors continue to grow, the need for skilled, small-scale contractors has never been greater. These contractors will create the spaces where the next generation of Detroiters shop, work, play and live. We are helping build the city's future today."

Participants can enroll in Ignite on a rolling basis and complete the program at their own pace over six to 12 months. To be eligible, applicants must be based in Detroit, have operated as a registered business for at least one year, have completed two or more projects in the last nine months, must demonstrate proficiency in a skilled trade, and must have minimum annual earnings of $65,000.

A Collaborative Partnership Centered on Community

Ignite brings together a collective of partners with a shared dedication to unlocking economic opportunity for Detroit residents. Michigan Women Forward will serve as the program fiduciary and first lending partner, providing capital access and participant support.

"Detroit's future depends on creating real, lasting pathways to economic opportunity, and that starts by investing in the people who are ready to build it," said Carolyn Cassin, President and CEO of Michigan Women Forward. "Ignite will help hundreds of Detroit-based contractors move from surviving to scaling – growing their businesses, hiring locally, and creating long-term personal and generational wealth. We're proud to join this effort to ensure more Detroiters have the support and funds they need to succeed."

LifeLine Global Consulting will serve as the program administrator, leading curriculum development, technical assistance delivery and marketing for the program.

"We are thrilled to launch the Ignite Detroit Contractors program to equip local contractors with the tools, resources, and networks they need to scale sustainably," said Dr. Nicole Parker, CEO of LifeLine Global Consulting. "Detroit's contractors are the backbone of our city's economic future, and this program is designed to remove barriers, build capacity, and accelerate their growth so they can continue transforming neighborhoods while building generational wealth."

Finally, The Ownership Initiative, which also co-created the Motor City Contractor Fund with Gilbert Family Foundation, designed the Ignite program and will provide strategic support and evaluation.

"Many talented Detroit contractors are stuck in the startup phase," said Krysta Pate, Founder & CEO of The Ownership Initiative. "Ignite builds a community of learning and connection –offering connectivity to lending opportunities and a structured, four-level curriculum that helps contractors grow their businesses and take on a larger share of work in Detroit today."

To learn more or apply to the program, visit www.ignitedetroitcontractors.org.

IGNITE

Powered by Gilbert Family Foundation

About Gilbert Family Foundation

The Gilbert Family Foundation is a private nonprofit foundation founded by Jennifer and Dan Gilbert to accelerate a cure for neurofibromatosis type 1 (NF1) and build economic opportunity and equity in the city of Detroit. The Gilbert Family Foundation supports groundbreaking, cutting-edge research in hopes of eradicating NF1, a genetic disorder that causes tumors to grow on nerves anywhere in the body. Additionally, the Foundation supports the economic stability and mobility of residents in Detroit by investing in wealth-building opportunities and breaking down systemic barriers.

For more information on the Gilbert Family Foundation, please visit gilbertfamilyfoundation.org.

About Michigan Women Forward

Michigan Women Forward is a community development financial institution dedicated to expanding economic opportunity for women and entrepreneurs of color. Through access to capital, business resources, and leadership programs, MWF works to build a stronger, more equitable economy across Michigan. Learn more at miwf.org.

LifeLine Global Consulting (LGC) is a business planning and strategy firm committed to empowering entrepreneurs, small businesses, and economic development organizations. Driven by a mission to accelerate personal and professional growth, LGC connects individuals to critical resources, designs actionable growth strategies, and equips businesses for capital readiness. As a core partner in the Ignite program, LGC will lead the development and delivery of a contractor-focused curriculum, oversee the program's technology infrastructure, build a compelling brand and outreach strategy, and deliver a dynamic educational experience tailored to the needs of Detroit's early-stage contractors.

The Ownership Initiative (TOIC)

The Ownership Initiative is a nationally recognized, Black-owned impact advisory firm headquartered in Detroit, Michigan, that advises on housing and small business strategies to create opportunities for underserved populations and economically challenged communities. The firm uses its immersive, community-led advisory approach to strategically aid in developing and launching Ignite as a sustainable offering for early-stage Detroit-based contractors.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

Trump destroys our source of information about jobs. This is beyond irresponsible.

He hates facts. He rejects truth. He doesn't want the public to know what's really happening.

By Robert Reich

I spent much of the 1990s as Secretary of Labor. One unit of the Labor Department is the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

I was instructed by my predecessors as well as by the White House, and by every labor economist and statistician I came in contact with, that one of my cardinal responsibilities was to guard the independence of the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Otherwise, this crown jewel of knowledge about jobs and the economy would be compromised. If politicized, it would no longer be trusted as a source of information.

So what does Trump do? With one fell swoop he destroyed the BLS.

Trump didn't like the fact that the BLS revised downward its jobs reports for April and May. Revisions in monthly jobs report are nothing new. They're made when the Bureau gets more or better information over time.

Yet with no basis in fact, Trump charged that Erika McEntarfer, the Commissioner of Labor Statistics, "rigged" the data "to make the Republicans, and ME, look bad." Then he ordered her fired and replaced with someone else — presumably someone whose data Trump will approve of.

How can anyone in the future trust the data that emerges from the Bureau of Labor Statistics when the person in charge of the agency has to come up with data to Trump's liking in order to stay in the job? Answer: They cannot. Trump has destroyed the credibility of this extraordinarily important source of information.

When Trump doesn't like the message he shoots the messenger and replaces the messenger with someone who will come up with messages he approves of.

So we're left without credible sources of information about what is really occurring.

Trump is in the process of trying to do the same thing with the Federal Reserve — demanding that Jerome Powell, the Fed's chair, cut interest rates. Trump is even threatening Powell with a Trumped-up expose of Powell's supposed extravagance in refurbishing the Fed as a means of forcing Powell to do his bidding or resign.

What happens to the Fed's credibility if Powell give in to Trump? It loses it. In the future, we wouldn't have confidence that the Fed is fighting inflation, as it should. And without that confidence, longer-term interest rates will spike because investors will assume that there's no inflation cop on the beat and therefore will demand a higher risk premium.

Trump hates facts that he disagrees with. That's why he's dismembering the Environmental Protection Agency, which has repeatedly shown that climate change isn't a "hoax," as Trump claims, but more like a national emergency. It's why Trump is attacking American universities, whose scientists are developing wind and solar energy, and whose historians have revealed America's tragic history of racism and genocide of indigenous people. He is killing off the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health, which are showing the sources of sickness and disease and how we can guard against them.

This is a man and a regime that doesn't want the public to know the truth. He is turning America into George Orwell's dystopian 1984.

This is what fascism looks like, friends.

We must fight this with everything we have.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

Do you have a contrary opinion? Write us at info@elcentralmedia.com

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Opinión de un Invitado:

Trump destruye nuestra fuente de información sobre empleos. Esto es sumamente irresponsable.

Odia los hechos. Rechaza la verdad. No quiere que el público sepa lo que realmente está sucediendo.

Por Robert Reich

Pasé gran parte de la década de 1990 como Secretario de Trabajo. Una unidad del Departamento de Trabajo es la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales.

Mis predecesores, así como la Casa Blanca y todos los economistas y estadísticos laborales con los que trabajé, me indicaron que una de mis responsabilidades fundamentales era proteger la independencia de la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales. De lo contrario, esta joya de la corona del conocimiento sobre el empleo y la economía se vería comprometida. Si se politizaba, dejaría de ser confiable como fuente de información.

Entonces, ¿qué hace Trump? De un plumazo, destruyó la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales (BLS).

A Trump no le gustó que la BLS revisara a la baja sus informes de empleo de abril y mayo. Las revisiones en los informes mensuales de empleo no son nada nuevo. Se realizan cuando la Oficina obtiene más o mejor información con el tiempo.

Sin embargo, sin fundamento alguno, Trump acusó a Erika McEntarfer, la Comisionada de Estadísticas Laborales, de manipular los datos para "hacer quedar mal a los republicanos y a mí". Luego ordenó su despido y su reemplazo por otra persona, presumiblemente alguien cuyos datos Trump aprobaría.

¿Cómo puede alguien confiar en el futuro en los datos que surgen de la Oficina de Estadísticas Laborales cuando la persona a cargo de la agencia tiene que presentar datos que le gusten a Trump para permanecer en el cargo? Respuesta: No pueden. Trump ha destruido la credibilidad de esta fuente de información tan importante.

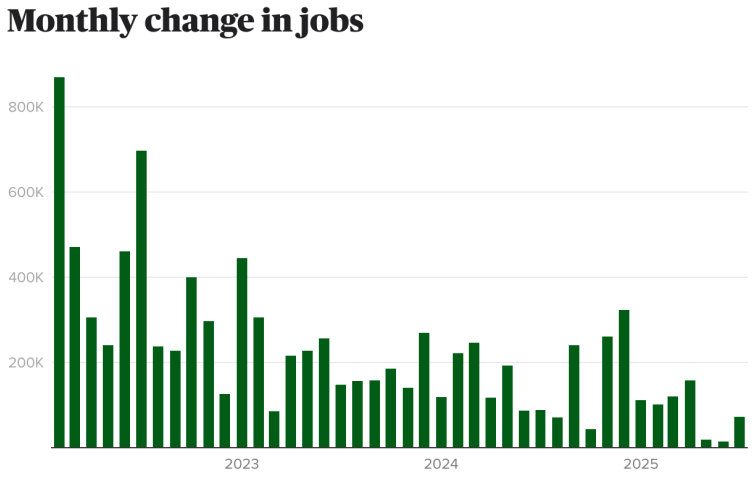
Cuando a Trump no le gusta el mensaje, elimina al mensajero y lo reemplaza por alguien que presente mensajes que él apruebe.

Así que nos quedamos sin fuentes de información creíbles sobre lo que realmente está sucediendo.

Trump está intentando hacer lo mismo con la Reserva Federal: exigir que Jerome Powell, presidente de la Fed, reduzca las tasas de interés. Trump incluso amenaza a Powell con una denuncia falsa de la supuesta extravagancia de Powell al reformar la Fed como una forma de obligarlo a obedecer sus órdenes o a renunciar.

¿Qué pasa con la credibilidad de la Reserva Federal si Powell cede ante Trump? La pierde. En el futuro, no confiaríamos en que la Reserva Federal esté combatiendo la inflación como debería. Y sin esa confianza, las tasas de interés a largo plazo se dispararán porque los inversores asumirán que no hay un regulador de la inflación al acecho y, por lo tanto, exigirán una prima de riesgo más alta.

Trump odia los hechos con los que no está de acuerdo. Por eso está desmantelando la Agencia de Protección Ambiental (EPA), que ha demostrado repetidamente que el cambio climático no es un "engaño", como afirma Trump, sino más bien una emergencia nacional. Por eso Trump ataca a las universidades estadounidenses, cuyos científicos están desarrollando energía eólica y solar, y cuyos historiadores han revelado la trágica historia de racismo y genocidio de los pueblos indígenas en Estados Unidos. Está destruyendo los Centros para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades (CDC) y los Institutos Nacionales de Salud (NIH), que muestran las causas de las enfermedades y cómo podemos protegernos de ellas.



Este es un hombre y un régimen que no quiere que el público sepa la verdad. Está convirtiendo a Estados Unidos en el distópico 1984 de George Orwell.

Así es el fascismo, amigos.

Debemos combatirlo con todas nuestras fuerzas.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Tzotzils / Batsil Winik'Otik

Tzotzils / Batsil Winik'Otik

The Tzotzils (Tsotsils) are a Mayan community that inhabits the Highlands region of Chiapas and some municipalities in the surrounding area. The Tzotzils call themselves Batsi'i Winik'otik, meaning "true men," and they speak Batsil K'op, meaning "true language" or "legitimate language." With nearly 400 people speaking their native Tzotzil, which is often the only language they speak in order to preserve their culture and language, there are also bilingual people who speak Spanish.

The Tzotzil people are located in several municipalities in the state of Chiapas: Zinacantán, San Juan Chamula, San Andrés Larráinzar, Chenalhó, Pantelhó, Huitiupán, Chalchihuitán, El Bosque, Simojovel, Ixtapa, Bochil, Soyaló, Huixtán, San Lucas, Acala, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Venustiano Carranza (San Bartolomé de los Llanos), Mitontic, Rayón, and Amatán.

The Tzotzil are known for their weaving, their wool skirts, and the way they govern their communities, particularly San Juan Chamula.

The word Tzotzil derives from sots'il winik, which means "bat man." It is said that the ancestors of the Zinacantecos found a bat in that valley and took it for God.

The Tzotzil population is organized into communities, which are in turn divided into neighborhoods. Each community has a ceremonial center, its own clothing, a main local patron saint, and a specific economic specialty.

The basic structure is the family, composed of mother, father, and children. If the sons marry, they may bring their wives and children to the same dwelling, thus forming extended families of up to three generations. Old age is a sign of authority; thus, the oldest man in the

house controls the group, owns the land, and organizes agricultural activities.

The Tzotzil language comes from Proto-Ch'ol, a language spoken in the Late Classic Period at sites such as Palenque and Yaxchilán.

The Tzotzil have migrated in search of land due to political and religious conflicts within and outside the state of Chiapas, as well as for studies and the search for other economic niches than those offered by their communities. This has led to communities of Tzotzil speakers being found throughout the state of Chiapas, Mexico, and the United States of America, especially in Illinois.

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

How Fire Protected Humans

Long ago, no one knows how long ago, our ancestors said that fire was the spirit of a god. They say that once upon a time, a human being left his home and headed toward a great mountain to hunt animals. As he entered the mountain, it began to cloud over, and the human being continued on his way until, suddenly, he realized he was already inside the mountain. So he began to worry and began searching for his way back home. No matter how hard he looked, he couldn't find it. Then, he realized that night was falling and began to tremble with fear. Suddenly, he heard someone calling him:

"Lord, Lord, do not be afraid! Don't you see that I am here to help you?" said the little voice, and he realized it was the little voice of fire, which spoke to him again:

"Look for my food; if you don't look for it, I won't be able to watch you at night."

The food that the fire wanted was firewood, and so the human being began to look for his firewood. When it was already very night, he set fire to the wood. When the fire ignited, it warmed the human, so he no longer noticed anything and fell asleep.

Suddenly, a very large jaguar appeared from between the trees. It approached the human's left foot and said:

"I'm going to eat you!"

The toe replied:

"No, because I'm not going to die like this!"

And the jaguar didn't give up, and it approached the fire

and also said to it:

"I'm going to eat the human who is at your side!"

And the fire replied:

"No! Because he is my master, and I am his guardian while he rests."

And the jaguar, so angry was he at the fire's response, quickly invented something else and spoke again:

"If you don't let me eat the human, I'm going to urinate on you and put you out, so I can eat the human without having to deal with you."

The fire remained silent, but suddenly said:

"You can eat the human, but on one condition."

"What?" said the jaguar.

"If you can jump over me three times, you can eat the human."

And the jaguar began to laugh because the fire was almost gone because of the cold. That's how the lion began to jump over the fire. On the first jump, the fire became very happy because it had something in mind. On the second jump, the fire proved what it was thinking and stood up, but it couldn't. On the third jump, the fire jumped right up to the jaguar and chased him up the mountain.

They say that when the human woke up, he realized that everything was burned and that the mountain was burned too. The human climbed up the great mountain and found the jaguar lying there, and that's why jaguars have their spots. Since then, the jaguar has no faith in fire, so it always lives near water.

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Tzotziles / Batsil Winik'Otik

Tzotziles / Batsil Winik'Otik

Los tzotziles (tsotsiles) son una comunidad mayense que habitan la región de los Altos de Chiapas y algunos municipios del área colindante. Los tzotziles se llaman a sí mismos batsil winik'otik: "hombres verdaderos", hablan el batsil k'op: "lengua verdadera" o "lengua legítima". Con cerca de cuatrocientos miel hablantes de lengua materna tzotzil y que en comúnmente es la única lengua que hablan en aras de preservar su cultura e idioma, también hay bilingües, que también hablan el español. La comunidad Tsotsil está ubicada en varios municipios del estado de Chiapas: Zinacantán, San Juan Chamula, San Andrés Larráinzar, Chenalhó, Pantelhó, Huitiupán, Chalchihuitán, El Bosque, Simojovel, Ixtapa, Bochil, Soyaló, Huixtán, San Lucas, Acala, San Cristóbal de las Casas, Venustiano Carranza (San Bartolomé de los Llanos), Mitontic, Rayón y Amatán.

Los Tsotsiles son conocidos por sus trabajos de telar, sus faldas de lana y por cómo rigen sus comunidades, principalmente, San Juan Chamula.

El vocablo tzotzil deriva de sots'il winik, que significa "hombre murciélago". Se cuenta que los antepasados de los zinacantecos hallaron un murciélago en aquella vega y lo tomaron por Dios.

La población Tzotzil se encuentra organizada en comunidades que a su vez están divididas en barrios. Cada comunidad posee un centro ceremonial, indumentaria propia, un santo patrón local principal y una especialidad económica dentro del conjunto.

La estructura básica es la familia, compuesta por madre, padre e hijos. Si los hijos se casan, podrán llevar a sus esposas e hijos a la misma vivienda, formando así familias extensas de hasta tres generaciones. La vejez es signo de autoridad, así, el hombre de mayor edad en la casa es quien controla al grupo, es dueño de las tierras y organiza las actividades agrícolas.

La lengua Tzotzil procede del proto-Ch'ol, lenguaje hablado en el período clásico tardío en sitios como Palenque y Yaxchilán.

Los tsotsiles han migrado en búsqueda de tierras por conflictos políticos y religiosos dentro y fuera del estado de Chiapas, así como por estudios y búsqueda de otros nichos económicos que aquellos que sus comunidades les ofertan, lo que ha provocado que encontremos comunidades de hablantes del tsotsil en todo el estado de Chiapas, México y Estados Unidos de Norte América, sobre todo en Illinois.

Tell them you saw it in Diles que lo viste en
EL CENTRAL
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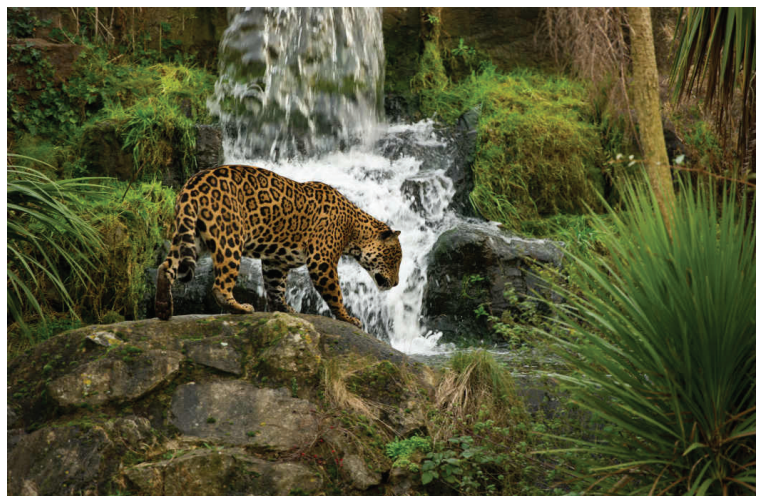
De cómo el fuego protegió a los humanos



Hace mucho tiempo, no se sabe cuánto, dicen nuestros antepasados que el fuego era el espíritu de un dios. Cuentan que había una vez un humano que salió de su casa y que se dirigió rumbo a una gran montaña para cazar animales. Al entrar en la montaña empezó a nublarse y el humano siguió su marcha hasta que, de pronto, se dio cuenta que ya estaba en el interior de la montaña. Fue así que comenzó a preocuparse y empezó a buscar su camino para regresar a su casa. Por más que lo buscaba no lo encontraba. Entonces, se dio cuenta que anochecía y empezó a temblar de miedo.

De repente escuchó que alguien lo llamaba:

–¡Señor, señor, no temas! ¿no ves que estoy aquí para ayudarte?– decía la vocecita, y se dio cuenta que era la vocecita del fuego, la cual le volvió a hablar otra vez:

–Busca mi comida, si no la buscas no te podré vigilar en la noche.

La comida que quería el fuego era, pues, la leña, y así fue como el humano comenzó a buscar su leña. Cuando ya era muy noche él le prendió fuego a la leña. Cuando el fuego se levantaba le daba calor al humano, entonces él ya no se daba cuenta de nada y se dormía.

De pronto salió entre los árboles un jaguar muy grande. Y se acercó al pie izquierdo del humano y le dijo:

–¡Te voy a comer!

El dedito del pie contestó:

–¡No, Porque no voy a morir así!

Y el jaguar no se dio por vencido, y se acercó al fuego

y a éste le dijo también:

–¡Voy a comer al humano que está a tu lado!

Y el fuego respondió:

–¡No! Porque es mi amo y soy el guardián de él mientras descansa.

Y el jaguar por tan enojado que estaba por la respuesta del fuego rápidamente inventó otra cosa y habló otra vez:

–Si no me dejas a que lo coma al humano te voy a orinar y te apagaré, así podré comer al humano sin lidiar contigo.

El fuego se quedó callado, pero, de repente, dijo:

–Puedes comer al humano, pero con una condición.

–¿Qué? –dijo el jaguar.

–Si logras saltar tres veces sobre mí, si te podrás comer al humano.

Y el jaguar se puso a reír porque del fuego ya quedaba muy poquito a causa del frío. Así fue como el león comenzó a dar su brinco sobre el fuego. En el primer brinco que dio, el fuego se puso muy contento porque pensaba algo. En el segundo brinco el fuego probó lo que pensaba y se levantó, pero no pudo hacerlo. En el tercer brinco el fuego saltó junto hacia el jaguar y lo fue persiguiendo hasta la montaña.

Cuentan que cuando se despertó el humano se dio cuenta que todo estaba quemado y que la montaña también estaba quemada, y el humano subió hasta la gran montaña y ahí encontró tendido al jaguar, y es por eso que los jaguares tienen sus manchas. Desde entonces, el jaguar no confía en el fuego, por eso siempre vive cerca del agua.

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